



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

RH-HR BLOOD TYPES—Applications in Clinical and Legal Medicine and Anthropology—Selected Articles in Immunohematology. Alexander S. Wiener, M.D., F.A.C.P., Senior Serologist, New York City; Assistant Professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine, New York University. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 763 pages. \$11.50.

In this volume the author dedicates a memorial to himself. The book is a collection of reprints of works by Dr. Wiener and his colleagues covering the period since 1940. As such, it provides an interesting view of the development of the field of blood grouping, its applications and other implications. The material covered is not as limited as the title would imply; and subjects covered include ABO incompatibility in pregnancy, the origin of the hemagglutinins, autoimmune disease, and material as fundamental as the origin of antibodies. But a volume of collected papers is of necessity limited in its scope. Dr. Wiener's book is all the more limited because of the author's violently partisan approach to the field of Rh. He has long been engaged with the British investigators in a controversy over terminology and the concept of linked versus independent gene pairs; and many of the frays and sorties receive lively treatment in a one-sided fashion. The result is often amusing, but sometimes can hardly be classified as instructive.

Fortunately the papers are arranged by subject, rather than chronologically. Much of the material is of considerable practical value to the practicing physician and clinical pathologist. Of especial interest is the section of the medico-legal aspects of blood typing and its application to disputed parentage; but here again, the use of collected papers is detrimental to optimal organization and clarity. A much more satisfactory work would have resulted had Dr. Wiener revised and enlarged his excellent monograph, "Blood Groups and Transfusions." In its present form this book is of interest mainly to workers in the blood grouping field who want a handy reference to Wiener's work, and to medical historians.

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CLINICAL ORTHOPTIC PROCEDURE—Second Edition—A Reference Book on Clinical Methods of Orthoptics. William Smith, O.D., Associate Instructor in Optometry and Instructor of Orthoptics and Visual Training, Massachusetts College of Optometry, Boston. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1954. 523 pages, 91 illustrations, \$10.00.

This is the second edition of a book reviewed in 1950. In the second edition obvious errors have been corrected and there have been some additions made to the text. It is true that several chapters have been completely rewritten and some outstanding ophthalmologists have been quoted. However, it still remains a confusing book that would seem to be of no help to the ophthalmologist, who has better and more accurate texts available.

As far as the book itself is concerned, it is easily readable, the illustrations are well printed, and in general the book comes up to the usual Mosby standards.

PRACTICAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY, Henry J. L. Marriott, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Maryland. The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1954. 171 pages, \$5.00.

Patently designed for the neophyte, this volume stands out among the recent avalanche of primers on electrocardiography. In a superior manner the author has met his prefatory commitment to prepare a text that "deals with the subject quickly and simply and yet is sufficiently comprehensive." Aware of the truism that biologic values do not submit to arithmetical exactitude, he wisely excludes all measurements, tables and formulae so frequently purported to represent arbitrary limits of normal. The material is presented in a clear and concise manner that will appeal to the reader who is not especially well versed in electrodynamics.

The genesis of the various electrocardiographic deflections is lucidly stated and is followed by an explanation of the phenomenon of cardiac rotation and the significance of the transitional zone that is remarkable in its clarity. The chapter on auricular arrhythmias emphasizes the unitary concept rather than that of circus motion. In the section on conduction defects no attempt is made to differentiate between complete A-V heart block and A-V dissociation and the terms are unfortunately used synonymously.

The patterns caused by myocardial infarction are well illustrated both as to the injury phenomena and for localization with the appropriate comment that clinically it is more important to know that an infarction has occurred than it is to speculate as to its probable site. The chapter on miscellaneous conditions includes brief descriptions of tracings associated with valvular lesions, drug effects, electrolyte disturbances and cor pulmonale.

Generally the volume is an outstanding example of simplicity that is rarely found in current offerings on electrocardiography and as such should be eagerly accepted by medical students, general practitioners and others seeking an understanding of this valuable—albeit not infallible—diagnostic discipline.

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AN RH-HR SYLLABUS—The Types and Their Applications. Alexander S. Wiener, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.C.A.P., Senior Bacteriologist (Serology), New York City; Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, New York University. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 82 pages, \$3.75.

In condensed syllabus form Dr. Wiener attempts to initiate the beginner into the intricacies of the Rh field. The initiation is highly Platonic, consisting mainly of a presentation of concepts. No attempt is made to provide a manual of methods. In the traditional Wiener manner the approach is completely partisan. When the "CDE" terminology is covered, it is with scorn only. The result is a work which is too superficial for the specialist and has insufficient perspective for the beginner.